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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/801,527	03/08/2001	Andreas Geil	10191/1760	7170
26646	7590	10/07/2003	EXAMINER	
KENYON & KENYON ONE BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10004			GILMAN, ALEXANDER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/801,527

Applicant(s)

GEIL ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander Gilman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 24-27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 9-12, 14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Broeksteeg.

With regard to claims 9 and 14, Broeksteeg (US 5,066,236) discloses (Fig. 5-8)

a multipole electrical connector comprising:

a housing (82) ; and

a contact set (62) with contact elements configured to receive a different counter-contact section of a mating connector, the contact elements are arranged in a single plane and form a single layer stamped grid ((col. 3, lines 67-69 – col. 4, lines 1-2) and supported in the housing (col. 4, lines 11-18).

With regard to claims 10-12, Broeksteeg discloses a forked shaped contact section (68 or 72) with limbs parallel each other and a tier bar perpendicular to the limbs.

With regard to claims 15-22, Broeksteeg discloses a method of producing a connector having a contact set (62) with contact elements configured to receive a different counter-contact section of a mating connector, the contact elements are arranged in a single plane and form a single layer stamped grid ((col. 3, lines 67-69 – col. 4, lines 1-2) and supported in the housing (col. 4, lines 11-18).

2. Claims 9-14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hillbish et al

With regard to claims 9 and 14, Hillbish et al (US 6,041,498) discloses (Fig. 3, 4)

a multipole electrical connector comprising:

a housing (90) ; and

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a contact set (42, 60) with contact elements configured to receive a different counter-contact section of a mating connector, the contact elements are arranged in a single plane and form a single layer stamped grid

With regard to claims 10-12, Hillbish et al disclose a forked shaped contact section with limbs parallel each other and a tier bar perpendicular to the limbs.

With regard to claim 13, Hillbish et al disclose a detent element (44).

With regard to claims 15-23, Hillbish et al disclose a method of producing a connector having a contact set (42, 60) with contact elements configured to receive a different counter-contact section of a mating connector, the contact elements are arranged in a single plane and form a single layer stamped grid .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13 and 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Broeksteeg in view of Harting et al.

With regard to claim 13, Broeksteeg discloses all of the limitations except for a detent element.

Harting et al (US 6,196,853) disclose (Fig. 2) a detent element.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the Broeksteeg's contacts with the detent elements, as taught by Harting et al, to increase a contact pressure in a zone of contact mating.

With regard to claim 23, Broeksteeg when modified by Harting et al, discloses a structure of the connector which is manufactured using the steps claimed.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 24-27 are allowed.

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter. Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the different orientation of the adjacent counter-contact sections of the mating connector, while the contact elements of the claimed connectors being disposed in a single plane.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 07/17/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that the prior art (Broeksteeg) does not disclose

(a) a multipole connector ;

(b) each of contact sections of the multipole connector configured to receive a different contact section of the mating connector.

However, (a) since the specification does not present a specified meaning for a term "multipole ", it deems to be proper interpreting the prior art's subassembly with a plurality contact elements as a multipole connector;

(b) the limitation "different contact sections of the mating connector" was interpreted as -- separate contact sections --(The Heritage Dictionary, 4th ed) since the mating contacts being configured identically.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the

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mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Gilman whose telephone number is (703) 305-0847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7724 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

Alexander Gilman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Gilman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

September 30, 2003